

American gymnastics captain; watching her was a remarkable lesson in focus. "Reliable Raisman," as she was called, would be USA Gymnastics' foundation and, with the help of her teammates, would compete for individual gold medals and an elusive team gold against the world's best.

The day before the all-around team competition, Aly's teammate, the No. 1 gymnast on Earth in the individual all-around, fell. A team gold now hanging in the balance, her teammates covered their mouths and fought back tears as their coaches nervously paced. In a hushed arena, the cameras and the eyes of tens of millions of TV viewers turned to Reliable Raisman, who would now have to turn in the performance of a lifetime to secure gold for the American women.

Aly had in several previous competitions selected a modern rendition of "Hava Nagila," the popular Jewish folk song of celebration, as the music for her anything-but-routine floor exercises. Meaning "let's rejoice" in Hebrew, the song seemed a natural choice for this young woman, whose Jewish heritage is a central part of her life and family. After steady performances in the vault, beam, and uneven bars, the opening notes of "Hava Nagila" rang through the arena for her floor exercise. Before her routine, a TV commentator remarked that for Aly to secure the gold would require an "unreal" performance and a tumbling run that many thought "was not possible." Raisman exceeded expectations as she executed her tumbles and stuck her landing with a brilliant smile. This near-perfect floor routine solidified the first gymnastics all-around gold for American women since 1996.

A gold medal was also on the line as Aly again drew the world's attention to a 12-by-12 meter mat in London for the games' final gymnastic event. Raisman's floor routine came on the heels of a bronze medal in the individual balance beam competition providing her with a boost of confidence. A slow motion replay of her final tumbling run showed her tears of joy beginning before she stuck her final landing as she knew she would be the first American woman to win gold in the floor exercise.

In closing, Aly Raisman did more than win our Nation's first ever Olympic gold medal in the women's floor exercise, did more than deliver the first women's gymnastics team gold for American women in 16 years; Raisman is an inspiration for the youth of Massachusetts that with hard work and dedication to your craft, anything can be achieved.

Mr. President, I congratulate Aly on her historic gold medal and wish her all the best in the years ahead. And to all our Olympians and Paralympians, thank you for so ably representing our Nation in the 30th Olympiad.

#### RECOGNIZING ALASKANS OLYMPIANS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize three outstanding Alaskans who won in the 2012 U.S. Olympics and Paralympics: Ms. Janay DeLouch who calls Eielson Air Force Base home, Ms. Shirley Reilly who hails from Barrow, and Mr. Seth McBride from Juneau. I am proud of their accomplishments and honored to recognize these three talented young adults.

First, I would like to recognize Ms. DeLouch who competed in the women's long jump and placed bronze in the 2012 Olympic Games. Her other career highlights include placing third place in the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials and placing silver in the 2012 World Indoor Championships. She is also a two-time National indoor champion for 2011 and 2012 and has placed second in the 2011 USA Outdoor Championships.

Ms. Reilly competed in various events in track and field of the 2012 U.S. Paralympics. She placed gold in the women's marathon, silver in the women's 5000 m and bronze in women's 1500 m. An extraordinary and talented individual, Ms. Reilly's other career accomplishments include placing first in the 2012 Boston Marathon, LA Marathon and Bolder Boulder (10K). She is a previous 2011 IPC World Championships Competitor and she finished second in the 2011 Chicago Marathon. Ms. Reilly has been a Paralympics Games Competitor since 2004.

Mr. McBride placed bronze in the mixed wheelchair rugby event in the 2012 U.S. Paralympics. His previous Paralympics experience includes placing gold in the 2008 Paralympics Games. Mr. McBride has competed in a variety of different sporting events and has placed gold at the 2005 World Wheelchair Games, the 2006 North American Cup, the 2006 Canada Cup, the 2006 World Championships, the 2008 Canada Cup and the 2010 World Championships.

Once again, it is my privilege to recognize these individuals for their hard work, dedication and their medals. They make Alaska proud.

#### TRIBUTE TO 2012 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST PAIGE McPHERSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Paige McPherson of Sturgis, SD, who earned a bronze medal in Taekwondo at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England, this summer. Despite facing the popular British world champion in the first round of competition in London, Paige fought her way to the bronze medal in the women's 67-kilogram division. Paige possesses an outstanding record of success in Taekwondo, beginning at a young age and, most recently, as a silver medalist at the 2011 Pan American Games. She was also a successful member of the U.S. National Team in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Growing up in Sturgis, Paige pursued excellence in many areas. Paige is a

passionate dancer and an active member of her church, pursuits which, along with her family and friends, helped her accomplish the amazing feat of earning an Olympic medal. She graduated from Black Hills Classical Christian Academy in 2009, at which point she was already nationally recognized in Taekwondo, and went on to attend Miami-Dade College in Miami, FL. Some of her most notable awards include 2007 Outstanding Female Athlete at the Senior National Championships, 2008 Chris Canning Award of Excellence Winner, and 2009 Outstanding Female Athlete at the USAT National Championships.

Paige should be extremely proud of her remarkable accomplishments. I am more than happy to extend my congratulations on her Olympic medal and to offer congratulations on behalf of the State of South Dakota. We are extremely proud and wish her continued success in the years to come.

#### NATIONAL DAY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the people and leaders of Taiwan on their National Day on October 10. This is a day for celebration, a special day that recognizes the founding of the country 101 years ago.

I would like to highlight the economic success of Taiwan over the last century—a success that has rightly been called a "miracle" and resulted in a strong and dynamic economy. The United States and Taiwan have a long history of mutual trade and friendship that has promoted economic prosperity on both sides of the Pacific. I am particularly pleased that the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has become even stronger in recent years.

I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Jason Yuan, Representative of the ROC (Taiwan) to the United States, on his new post as Secretary-General of the National Security Council of Taiwan. I cherish the friendship with Ambassador Yuan and wish Ambassador and Madame Yuan the very best of luck in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Taiwan on their success and thanking them for their continued efforts to work with the United States to foster a strong economic growth and cooperation. On this day of National Celebration, the people of both the United States and Taiwan have much to celebrate.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, this week I submitted two resolutions: The first recognizes September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month; the second designates the week of September 16 as "National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week" and honors the